

**Graduate Students Association
Forum Meeting Minutes
November 30, 2005 5:30 PM
Ackerman Union 201-A**

Members Present: Daniel Lid (Arts & Arch), Melissa Morales (Arts & Arch), Asher Hodes (Biological Sciences), Gene Gurkoff (Biological Sciences), Jossein Shahaugian (Dentistry), Patrica Perez Zamira (Education), Ed Ryan (Education), Sam Talaie (Engineering), RuGang Xu (Engineering), Kirk Sides (Humanities), Nikki Brown (Law), Matt Gutierrez (Law), Nicole Lampsa (Management), David Feldman (Management), David Wible (Management), Alaina Henry (Math & Physical Sciences), Erin Smith (Math & Physical Sciences), Merone Befekad (Medicine), Steve Doane (Medicine), Ersne Eromo (Medicine), Mincin Gomez (Nursing), Ashley Peterson (Public Health), Janet Cummings (Public Health), John Tan (Social Sciences), Dorothy Kim (ASUCLA BOD), James Tabibian (Student Interest Board), You Korlann (Student Interest Board), Jerry Mann (ASUCLA Rep), Mike Cohn (ASUCLA Rep), Ted Ramirez (Alumni Rep), Cherie Francis (Grad Division), Jared Fox (GSA President), Mac Marston (GSA VPI), Scott Friedman (GSA VPAA), Cindy Mosqueda (GSA VPEX), Andrea Jones (GSA Pubs Fund), Christine Wilson (GSA GSRC), Anthony Dunbar (GSA Communications), Monica Sanchez Rivas (GSA CSC), Linh Ho (GSA Legislative Liaison and Researcher), Montgomery Lim (GSA Campus Organizing Director), KC Souza (GSA Staff), Lynikka Bernard (GSA Staff), Sarah Threlfall (PHSA Rep), Lauren Neel (PHSA Rep), Bahar Khanjari-Navab (PHSA Rep), Jaimie Morse (Public Health), Gerardo Vindioca (RAZA GSA Student Interest Board), Cory Gooding (BGSA Student Interest Board)

I. Call To Order 5:34 PM

II. Announcement

- A. Monica announced the Holiday GradBar being held on Thursday, December 1, at 5:30 PM in the Ackerman Grand Ballroom.
- a. Because the Halloween GradBar was so crowded, if you want to be a VIP and get in earlier, bring a gift for the toy drive that costs around \$10.

III. Adoption of Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day

- A. Motion to approve amended Consent Calendar and Orders of the Day with the various amendments:
- a. Nicole
- b. John
- c. Approved with unanimous consent

IV. Special Presentation, Judith Richlin-Klonsky and Gale Stuart, Analysis of 2005 New Graduate Student Orientation Survey Data

- A. Judith and Gale told us about the evaluation of the New Graduate Student Orientation, held on Monday, September 26. It involved a plenary session, resource fair, 24 workshops, and campus tours.
- B. The evaluation included an online survey of all new graduate students, paper surveys of the workshop attendees, an online survey of workshop presenters, and an online survey of resource fair tablers.
- C. The attendance for the event was very good; 1,000 (app. 1/3) of the graduate students registered for the event, 926 attended the plenary session, 834 attended the resource fair, workshop attendance ranged from 9 to 164, there were 795 lunches picked up, and 132 people went on tours.
- D. About 49% of graduate students attended the event, and those who couldn't come most likely had a conflict with other mandatory orientations or classes already in session.
- E. For those who did attend the orientation, most said the timing of the orientation invitation by email was very good, as was the online registration process. The convenience of the date of the event and the in-person registration process in Ackerman also received very positive feedback, as did the usefulness of the orientation packet received at registration.

- F. The feedback on the plenary session was not as high, but still fairly positive. The usefulness of the information has most answers in the good and average categories, while the overall qualities of the speakers had a majority of answers in the good range.
 - G. The feedback on the workshops had most answers in the good category; the usefulness of the information received about 39% of the responses in the good category, while the scheduling and timing of the workshops received a majority of good responses as well. For the rooms in which they were held, the workshops received mostly good and excellent answers, another good sign.
 - H. For the quality of the boxed lunch provided, the majority of answers were excellent and good, which shows us that overall people liked the boxed lunch.
 - I. The quality of the Resource Fair received about 46% good responses, as well as 22% excellent responses. People really liked this, especially since 89% said they would recommend it to another graduate student.
 - a. Those that did not attend the Resource Fair didn't because of conflict or a lack of time.
 - J. For the campus tour, a majority of people didn't take it (almost 70%). Those that did take it, liked it; there were very few bad responses.
 - a. There were a mix of responses for why people didn't attend the campus tour, including conflicts, not being interested, and not having time, among other reasons.
 - b. Those that did take the tour gave it very good responses in terms of the quality; almost 80% gave it a good or excellent rating. Also, almost 80% said they would recommend it to another graduate student.
 - K. The overall ratings for the Orientation came in very high; 21% said excellent and 59% said good. With results like these, one can tell the event was a success.
 - L. For on-line surveys given out about the resource fair tablers, there was a 31% response rate, and 100% said they would participate in future orientations. They said the event was well-organized and executed.
 - M. For on-line surveys given out about the workshop presenters, 48% responded, and again 100% said they would participate in the future. They said that communication with organizers and the organization of the event as a whole was good.
 - N. For on-line surveys given out to the workshop attendees, the response rates ranged from 58% to 100%
 - O. To summarize the survey results, almost all of the categories received excellent or good responses. Students thought that the logistics of the event were very good and that the resource fair was highly beneficial. The only recommendations were to review the timing of the event and centralize the workshop locations.
 - P. Ashley questioned how those who didn't attend the orientation are surveyed, and Erin suggested having a smaller orientation for those who couldn't attend the main one.
 - Q. Mac followed up by saying there is a Graduate Student Resource Center Orientation Committee and everyone is represented on it. New members are still needed.
- V. **Approval of Minutes from the last Forum Meeting, November 9, 2005**
- A. Motion to approve the minutes from November 9, 2005:
 - a. Erin
 - b. Janet
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent.
- VI. **Officer Report, Jared Fox, President**
- A. Jared said that they had the Weyburn Terrace Residents Association town hall meeting, and they gained leadership commitments from at least five residents.
 - B. December 8 is the first all-day meeting for the UCLA Chancellor Search Committee. This is the only voting opportunity for graduate students, and should be taken advantage of. Jared is still gathering opinions from graduate students about what they would like in a new Chancellor.

- a. Ashley asked when the suggestions should be turned in, and Jared said before the meeting.
- C. His next major project is to secure permanent funding for GSRC. It has been successful so far, and he would like that to continue with permanent funding.

VII. Officer Report, Mac Marston, Internal Vice President

- A. First, Mac gave an update on the new office. We have gotten offers for furniture for the new offices, and are aiming to move the Student Interest Groups into their new offices by next quarter. Events, Community Service, and Communication can move in at the end of this quarter or the beginning of next.
- B. He attended the meeting for the Weyburn Terrace Residents Association on November 14, where five residents of Weyburn were identified who are willing to be involved in founding the group. They are registering right now and hoping to host an event in the future at the Terrace to build membership.
- C. He also attended the Council of Presidents meeting on November 16. Officers from 11 out of 13 councils attended, and a variety of issues were discussed related to administrative issues and goals for the year.
- D. On November 17, he hosted a meeting of the Student Interest Board; they had all five active student interest groups present. A set of possible reforms were presented regarding items such as registration and accounting procedures and active and inactive groups. They will continue working throughout the year.
- E. International GSA held its first meeting on November 22. They are going to continue building membership throughout the year and begin the drafting of a constitution next quarter
 - a. You commented on this as well, saying how it is still a new group and to contact youwang@ucla.edu for info on getting involved.
- F. Motion to approve Bylaw changes (see attachment F)
 - a. You
 - b. Erin
 - c. Approved by unanimous consent

VIII. Officer Report, Scott Friedman, GSA Vice President Academic Affairs

- A. Scott talked about how fees will increase by 8% from 2006 to 2007 for undergraduates and 10% for graduate students. He provided an academic senate report for the fall quarter. In terms of the Council on Planning and Budget, he reported that UCLA has had to undergo budget reductions for three years, which led to a permanent loss in state funds. Overall, UCLA is fiscally healthy. He also talked about a calendar change proposal with five terms listed in the attachment. The Urban Planning Program has been reviewed and an ongoing problem was discovered: a lack of firm funding commitments. He also reported that the council does not seem convinced that UCLA can deal with the current energy crisis, and has also talked about strategic sourcing. Finally, he reported that foreign graduate students at UCLA have decreased by 48%.
- B. Scott also talked about the Graduate Council. Much of their work is done in winter quarter, but they have met with the Undergraduate Council to talk about the responsibilities of the committee members. They are getting involved in aligning UCLA's calendar with the rest of the UC calendars, admissions in the Islamic Studies Interdepartmental program, the PhD Health Economics program, and the M.F.E. program at the Anderson School.
- C. The Undergraduate Council is also involved in the calendar alignment. Over the course of the quarter, they have been dealing with surveying the seniors, California Teach, admitting students with exceptions in their application, Regent's Scholarships, fulfilling lower division GE requirements through the Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum for students who transfer from non-UC schools, and the issue of letting graduate students teach their own classes.
- D. The current issues among Academic Freedom are creating a report on the ways in which the Patriot Act will affect work done at the university and discussing the issues surrounding tobacco-company funding of scientific research at the university.

- E. Motion to approve the appointment of Adam Fingerhut on the College Faculty Executive Committee
 - a. Erin
 - b. Gene
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent
- IX. **Officer Report, Mac Marston for Tiffany Nurrenbern, GSA Director of Elections**
 - A. Because of Tiffany’s absence, Mac spoke for her and informed everyone to notice the bylaw changes to the elections code. He also noted to send appointments to the elections board, and if you couldn’t attend the meeting that was held, talk to Tiffany.
- X. **Officer Report, Cindy Mosqueda, GSA External Vice President, T. Linh Ho, GSA Legislative Liaison and Researcher, Monty Lim, GSA Director of Campus Organizing**
 - A. All three of them talked about the November Regents Meeting and the UCSA Board Retreat. The Regents Meeting was a victory; they had a 33% return to aid for undergraduates approved. Speaker Nunez was there, and the proposal to postpone undergraduate fee hikes did not pass by three votes. Regent Marcus proposed freezing fees for graduate students, but that motion did not pass by one vote. They had an undergrad goal of getting a \$75 million buyback in the governor’s budget to cover the 8% fee increase. Their graduate goal was to have Regent Marcus reintroduce the proposal to stop the graduate students’ 10% fee increase. They are not in favor of raising professional fees. Online petitions have been very popular lately.
- XI. **Report of Ashley Peterson and Janet Cummings of Public Health Student Association**
 - A. In new business, Janet discussed the issue of improving seismic safety on campus. With all the construction, it is not very good, and in the case of an earthquake there is a very high risk. UC policy says that facilities with a “very poor” rating as the School of Public Health has should undergo reconstruction, and the Chancellor has said that he will not relocate the School of Public Health. They are making a short-term plan to move the staff, students, and the faculty of the School of Public Health to a seismically safe building and a long-term plan to prioritize the replacement of the School of Public Health building with a specific timetable and a plan to achieve replacement within that timetable.
 - B. Motion to approve the resolution as amended:
 - a. Gene
 - b. Erin
 - c. Approved by unanimous consent
- XII. **Report of Steve Crosley, TSAB Representative**
 - A. Steve gave an update on the BruinGo program. Thousands of students use it, but they might get rid of the program. Right now it looks good to keep the \$0.25 copayment for riding the bus, but 15% of riders may not be paying. They have to deal with the loss of income versus students not being able to ride the bus. Negotiations are continuing; they want to keep the copay to ensure people are paying. They may increase it to \$0.44, a 16% increase. They want to continue the copay because it is the easiest way for non-frequent riders to pay. If you have any questions, you can email Steve at scrosley@ucla.edu.
- XIII. **Adjournment, 7:23 PM**
 - A. Motion to adjourn
 - a. You
 - b. John
 - c. Approved with unanimous consent